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STEVEN TILLEY
Speaker of the House
Missouri House of Representatives

August 10, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket # 11-65

Members of the Commission:

As Speaker of the Missouri House, I have worked with my colleagues in the General Assembly to help create a pro-business, pro-growth environment in our state. This environment encourages economic investment as well as business development.

The state district that I have the honor to represent is comprised mainly of rural communities and smaller cities. One of the main hurdles my constituents face is access to high-speed wireless broadband service, a service that would help level the technological playing field with our urban centers and bring innovation, information, and investment to our communities. The proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA would remove those hurdles, expanding high-speed wireless broadband to rural areas like the one I represent. I support this merger and hope you will approve it.

Missouri has so much to offer employers, from strong schools and plentiful natural resources to an education and motivated workforce and a prime location in the heart of America. While our efforts at the state level have helped to promote business investment, it is crucial for rural communities and smaller cities to have in place the communications infrastructure necessary to conduct business and to grow their industries. The proposed merger will result in billions of dollars being invested nationwide in AT&T's network to deploy 4G LTE advanced mobile broadband to over 97 percent of the country. This will create jobs and spur additional investment in Missouri, particular in areas like the one I represent.

The proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile has the potential to be transformational for rural Missouri and rural America. For the benefit of our communities, I ask that you support the merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Tilley".

Steven Tilley
Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives

cc: Chariman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn